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Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

Written statement* submitted by the International Career Support Association, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[07 March 2016]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

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Please recycle

Issue of Military comfort woman

The Japanese delegation addressed the 63rd UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women held on the 16th of February this year.

The Japanese government mainly indicated three points to the committee.

1. They could not find any evidence that the Japanese authorities forced Korean women into sexual slavery after a full scale investigation.

2. The figure of 200,000 women, which has been widely reported, has no concrete evidence.

3. The term "sex slave" is contrary to the facts, because they were well paid prostitutes according to the US Prisoners of War interrogation report No. 49 issued in 1944.

On the 28th of December last year, Japan and South Korea came to a conclusion to close this contentious issue between the two nations. Both nations agreed not to bring up the comfort women issue any more.

However, there is a major instigator in Korea that keeps bringing up this issue. This organization is called "Jeong Dae Hyeob," meaning "Alliance for the countermeasure of volunteer workers corps issue" in Korean language, which has nothing to do with the comfort women issue even from its name.

Furthermore, this organization intentionally misleads the public outside Korea by incorrectly translating its name as "The Korean Council for the Women Drafted for Military Sexual Slavery by Japan" in English.

The reason is to fabricate the purpose of the organization and to make those women look as pitiful as possible to raise money.

They have been dragging self-proclaimed former comfort women to several places including Europe, the USA, and Japan to testify what the organization has trained them to say.

Their testimonies have changed several times and the story line is getting more pathetic each time.

Some of them said, "I was dragged into a jeep by Japanese soldiers, we were especially busy during Christmas time, and I could not communicate with the driver because I could not speak English, etc."

Even in these short statements, there are three errors.

1. Japan did not have jeeps at that time,
2. Japan was/is not a Christian nation so there is no holiday for soldiers during Christmas time, and
3. Japanese soldiers did not speak English.

Recently two former comfort women testified in Japan. One of them said, "Japan made Korea a sea of flames." Although they were considered Japanese citizens at that time and there was no need for Japan to raze their own soil, they testified to what they have not experienced because of the organization.

In 1996, UN Special Rapporteur Ms. Radhika Coomaraswamy made a report on this issue, which was based on these fabricated stories and testimonies. Ms. Coomaraswamy was deceived by those who wanted to turn this issue intomoney for themselves and to criticize Japan.

Since the grounds for the argument in the Coomaraswamy report has been disproved, we request the UN Human Rights Council to conduct a further investigation with the Japanese government and to repeal the Coomaraswamu report or submit a new report based on the facts, not fabrication.

Thank you very much.